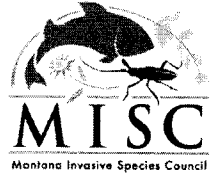


# The Montana Invasive Species Council



A statewide partnership working to protect Montana's economy, natural resources and public health through a coordinated approach to combat invasive species.

MISC's mission is to protect Montana's economy, natural resources, and public health and safety by assessing and bolstering Montana's invasive species efforts through a coordinated approach to keep invasive species out of Montana and to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species already established in the state.

## *Executive Committee*

### **County Weed Districts**

Bryce Christiaens, Chair  
Missoula County Weed District Manager

### **Conservation Districts**

Steve Wanderaas, Vice Chair  
McCone County

### **FWP Representative**

Tom Woolf, Vice Chair  
AIS Bureau Chief

Stephanie Hester, MISC Coordinator  
DNRC Invasive Species Program Manager

### **Agriculture**

Steve Tyrrel, Integrated Ag. Services, Vice President/CEO

### **Blackfeet Nation**

Dona Rutherford, Blackfeet Environmental Office

### **Chippewa Cree Tribe**

Daryl Wright II, Council Member

### **Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes**

Dennis Clairmont, Tribal Council

### **Conservation Organization**

Leigh Greenwood  
Nature Conservancy, Don't Move Firewood Campaign  
Manager

### **Crow Tribe of Indians**

Gail Whiteman, Crow Land Management

### **DOC Representative**

Jan Stoddard, Bureau Chief  
Industry Services & Outreach

### **DNRC Representative**

Amy Gannon, Pest Management Specialist

### **Fishing Organization**

David Brooks, Montana Trout Unlimited

### **Fort Belknap Indian Community**

Dennis Longknife, Climate Change Coordinator

### **Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes**

Laurie Shafer, Water Quality Specialist

### **Hydropower Representative**

Andy Welch, NW Energy, Hydropower Compliance Mgr.

### **MDA Representative**

Kim Mangold, MDA Deputy Director

### **MDT Representative**

Mike Miller, Noxious Weed Coordinator

### **University Extension**

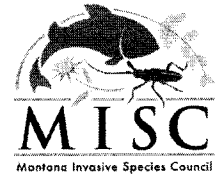
Jane Mangold, MSU Ext, Noxious Weed Specialist

### **Wildlife Organization**

Alec Underwood, Montana Wildlife Federation

### **Vacancies**

Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
Private landowner



### MISC Updates:

- Establishment of an independent scientific advisory panel for invasive species issues
  - **Issue:** Potential limitations, research needs and interpretation of Environmental-DNA results for use in early detection monitoring for zebra/quagga mussels
  - **Status:** Beginning stages of developing stakeholder workgroup to refine SAP questions and identify experts to engage in the panel
  - **Timeline:** Workshop and recommendations to be completed in time to incorporate results into 2018 survey/monitoring field season
- Invasive Species Law Review
  - **Issue:** Clarify existing statute regarding all-taxa invasive species issues (regulatory authority, management responsibility, funding, etc.)
  - **Status:** in the process of hiring law student from UM Law School's Land Use & Natural Resources clinic to compile current federal, tribal and state statute and rule related to invasive species in Montana
  - **Timeline:** Completed in July of 2018 to serve as basis for summit in fall of 2018 to discuss potential solutions to identified gaps in management, authority and funding.
- Stakeholder interest in raising the fine for not stopping at Watercraft Inspection Stations
  - **Issue:** current fine for not stopping at a watercraft inspection station is \$85.
  - **Status:** stakeholders in meetings in both the Columbia and Missouri River watersheds, ranging from boaters to agricultural producers, believe this fee is too low to serve as any kind of barrier to not stopping at WIS and are interested in the MISC and the Upper Columbia Basin Commission recommending to Fish, Wildlife and Parks to increase fine through rule.
  - **Timeline:** Working to have new fine in place by 2018 Watercraft Inspection Season.

### MISC Committees:

- **Data Management:** Established to facilitate the development, implementation and enhancement of a coordinated information data management system for invasive species in Montana.
- **Education & Outreach:** Established to coordinate and promote invasive species information between natural resource managers, scientists, educators, policy makers, stakeholders and the public.
- **Invasive Woody Trees:** Established to facilitate a more coordinated statewide network for management of invasive tree species across the state of Montana
- **Firewood:** Pathway-based Committee that focuses on preventing the spread of invasive species through the movement of firewood
- **Tree Pest:** Serves primarily as an information sharing body between multiple parties that have a role in tree pest issues throughout Montana.

### Invasive Species on the Horizon:

- **Feral Hog** encroachment into Montana from Saskatchewan into Northeastern Montana. USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services have been receiving reports of pig activity from cooperating landowners recently, and have conducted looking for pigs in the area where they were reported.
- **Emerald Ash Borer** has been confirmed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, which is now the closest infestation to Montana, only being approximately 300 miles from our border.